



Discentes

Volume 2

Issue 2 *Volume 2, Issue 2*

Article 3

4-28-2016

Horace—Carmina 3.30

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Translated by Amanda Ball

Exegi monumentum aere perennius
regalique situ pyramidum altius,
quod non imber edax, non Aquilo inpotens
possit diruere aut innumerabilis
annorum series et fuga temporum.
Non omnis moriar multaque pars mei
uitabit Libitinam; usque ego postera
crescam laude recens, dum Capitolium
scandet cum tacita uirgine pontifex.
Dicar, qua uiolens obstrepit Aufidus
et qua pauper aquae Daunus agrestium
regnavit populorum, ex humili potens
princeps Aeolium carmen ad Italos
deduxisse modos. Sume superbiam
quaesitam meritis et mihi Delphica
lauro cinge uolens, Melpomene, comam.⁷

I raised a monument, more enduring than bronze,
and loftier than the royal ruin of the pyramids,
which neither demolishing rain, nor the unbridled North Wind
could raze: nor the incalculable
succession of years and times flight.
I will not die entirely, and a grand part of me
will escape Libitina; and I will grow ever anew
with the praise of posterity, as long as the pontifex
will climb the Capitoline with the silent virgin priestess.

⁷ Latin text: <<http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/horace/carm3.shtml>>.

I will be legendary, powerful though from humble origins,
where violent Aufidus roars and where
Daunus poor in rivers ruled rural people,
the foremost to compose the Aeolian song in
the Italian measures. Take the pride you sought,
Melpomene, for merits, and gladly crown my head
With the Delphic laurels.
